

What is claimed is:

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1. A radio frequency identification system comprising:
a plurality of transmitters for interrogating radio frequency identification tags attached to items on store shelves;
a plurality of receivers for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags, wherein the receivers are separately located from the transmitters; and
a computer for controlling the transmitters and receivers.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitters number less than the receivers.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitters number as low as about half of the receivers.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the receivers are closer to the items than the transmitters.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitters are mounted to a ceiling in rows between the shelves.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the receivers are mounted to a ceiling in rows above the shelves.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the receivers are part of electronic shelf labels mounted on the shelves.

8. A radio frequency identification system comprising:
a plurality of transmitters mounted to a ceiling between store shelves for interrogating radio frequency identification tags attached to items on the store shelves;
a plurality of receivers separate from the transmitters and mounted to the ceiling above the shelves and closer to the items than the transmitters for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags;
wherein the transmitters number as low as about half of the receivers; and
a computer for controlling the transmitters and receivers.

9. A radio frequency identification system comprising:
a plurality of transmitters for interrogating radio frequency identification tags attached to items on store shelves;
a plurality of electronic shelf labels including receivers for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags; and
a computer for controlling the transmitters and receivers.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the computer comprises an electronic shelf label system computer.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the electronic shelf labels store the response information and download the response information upon receipt of a command from the computer.

12. A method of capturing information from radio frequency identification tags attached to items on the store shelves comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of transmitters for interrogating radio frequency identification tags attached to items on store shelves;

providing a plurality of receivers separately located from the transmitters for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags;

activating the plurality of transmitters; and

receiving the information stored within the radio frequency identification tags from the receivers.

13. A method of capturing information from radio frequency identification tags attached to items on the store shelves comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of transmitters mounted to a ceiling between store shelves for interrogating the radio frequency identification tags;

providing a plurality of receivers separate from the transmitters and mounted to the ceiling above the shelves and closer to the items than the transmitters for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags;

activating the plurality of transmitters; and

receiving signals containing the information stored within the radio frequency identification tags.

14. A method of capturing information from radio frequency identification tags attached to items on the store shelves comprising the steps of:

 providing a plurality of transmitters mounted to a ceiling between store shelves for interrogating the radio frequency identification tags;

 providing a plurality of electronic shelf labels adjacent the items and containing receivers for receiving response information from the radio frequency identification tags;

 activating the plurality of transmitters; and

 storing the information in memories within the electronic shelf labels; and

 retrieving the information from the memories.